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W.i.t.c.h.

138

P75

august - september 2005

Will Irma Taranee Cornelia Hay Lin

Who will be the next Oracle?

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Dress up dull walls

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF PASSION

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Desires of the heart

SUMMIT

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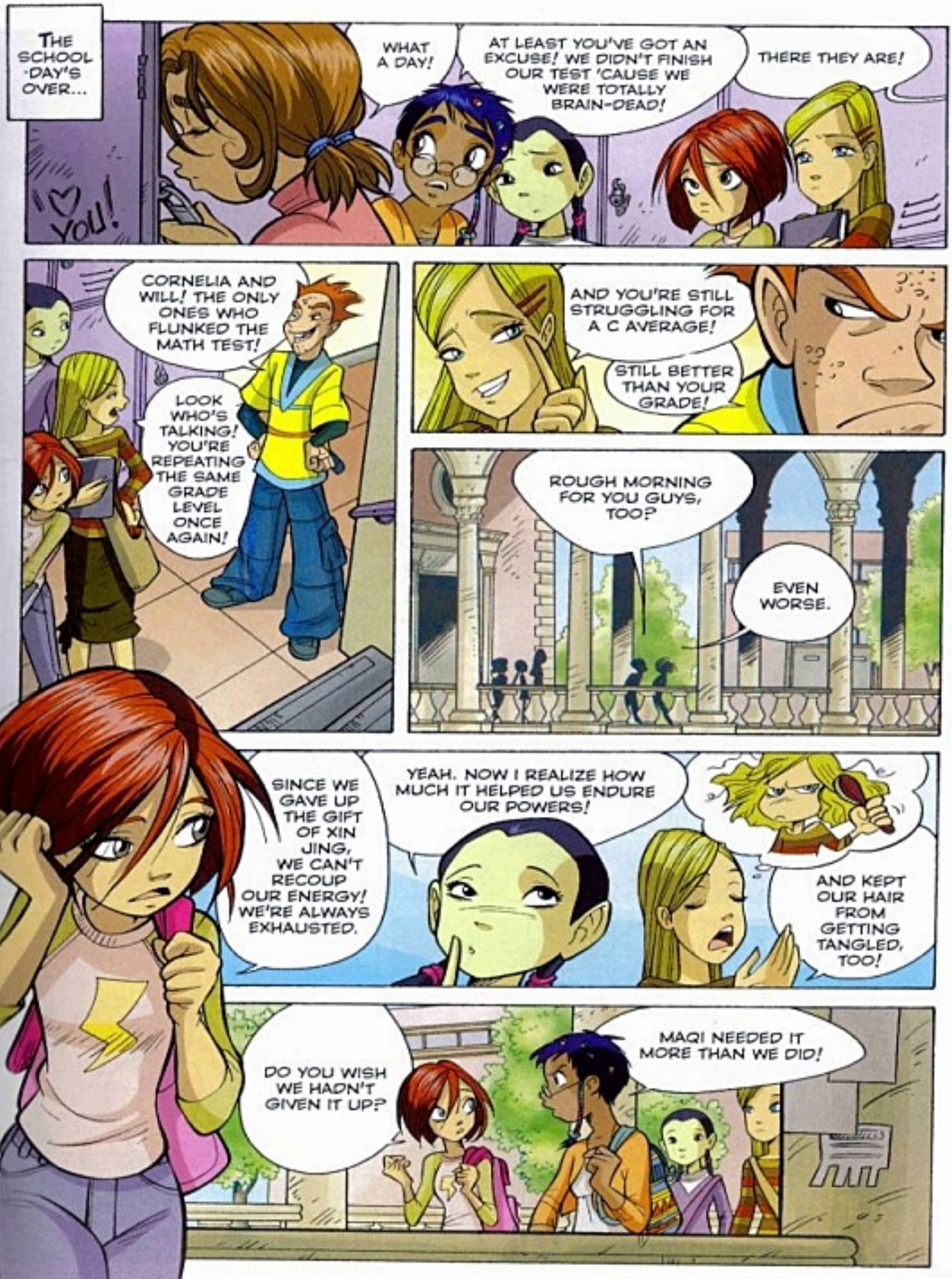
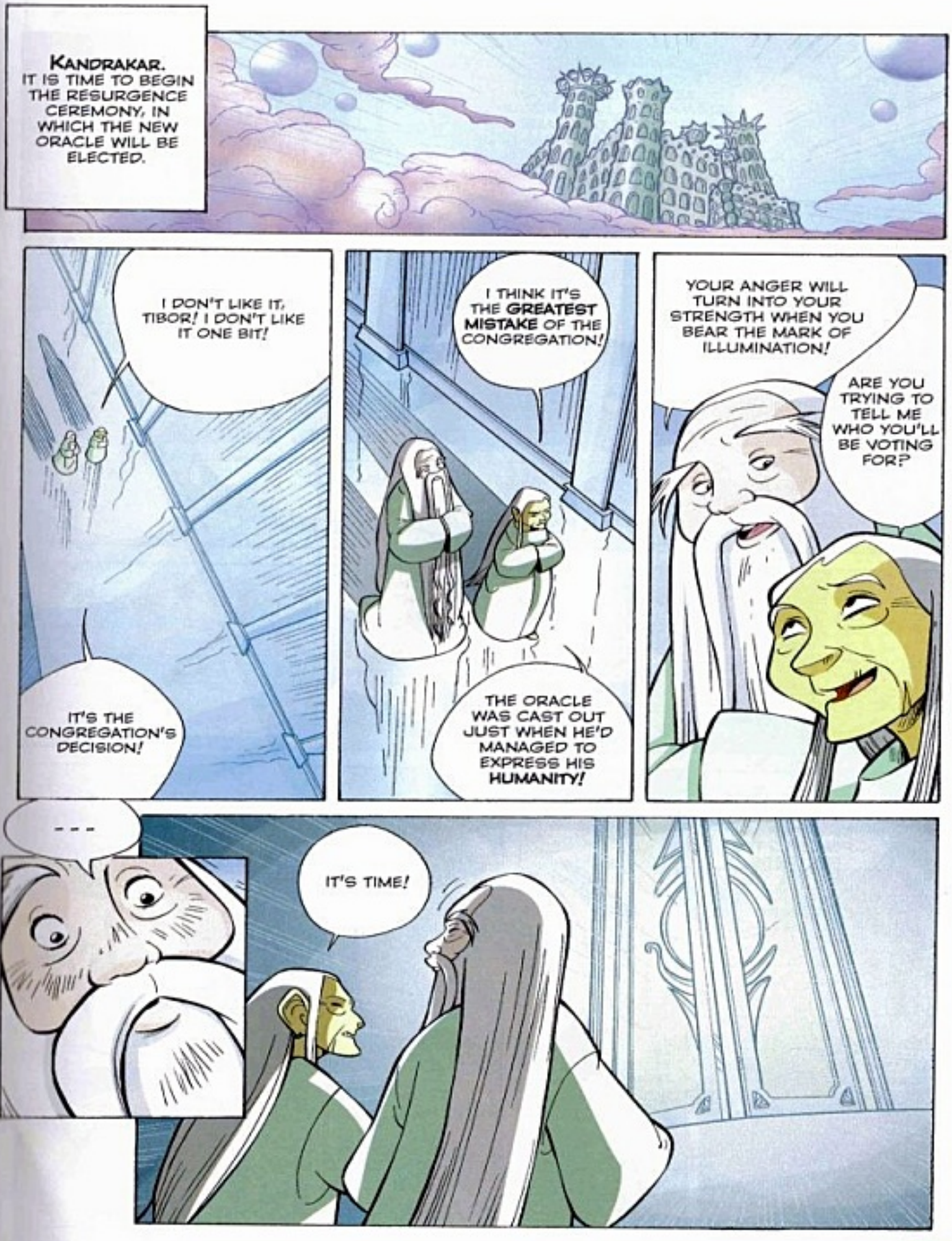
Desires of the Heart
"When it blossoms, it'll be the most beautiful flower of all."

THERE ARE SOME THINGS TEACHERS JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND.
THIS IS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE!
THIS TEST IS DIFFICULT ENOUGH! DON'T MAKE THINGS WORSE FOR YOURSELF...
IRMA, SNAP OUT OF IT!
WAKE UP!
KRRRROOFF
IRMA LAIR, THIS IS SIMPLY TOO MUCH!

THE TEST IS OVER FOR YOU! I'LL GRADE WHATEVER YOU'VE ANSWERED SO FAR!
HOW ABOUT SOME WARM MILK, MOM?
ZIP
AND YOU'D LIKE COOKIES WITH THAT, I SUPPOSE?
MMM... YEAH, THANKS! THE ONES WITH CHOCO CHIPS...
HEE! HEE! HEE!
YAWN!!!
GOOD MORNING, IRMA! I HOPE I DIDN'T DISTURB YOU, AND I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND IF I CALL YOUR PARENTS IN FOR A LITTLE TALK!
NOOO!
PLEASE DON'T! PLEASE DON'T!
PLEASE GIVE ME BACK MY TEST PAPER! I'LL DO A GREAT JOB, REALLY!
TOO LATE!

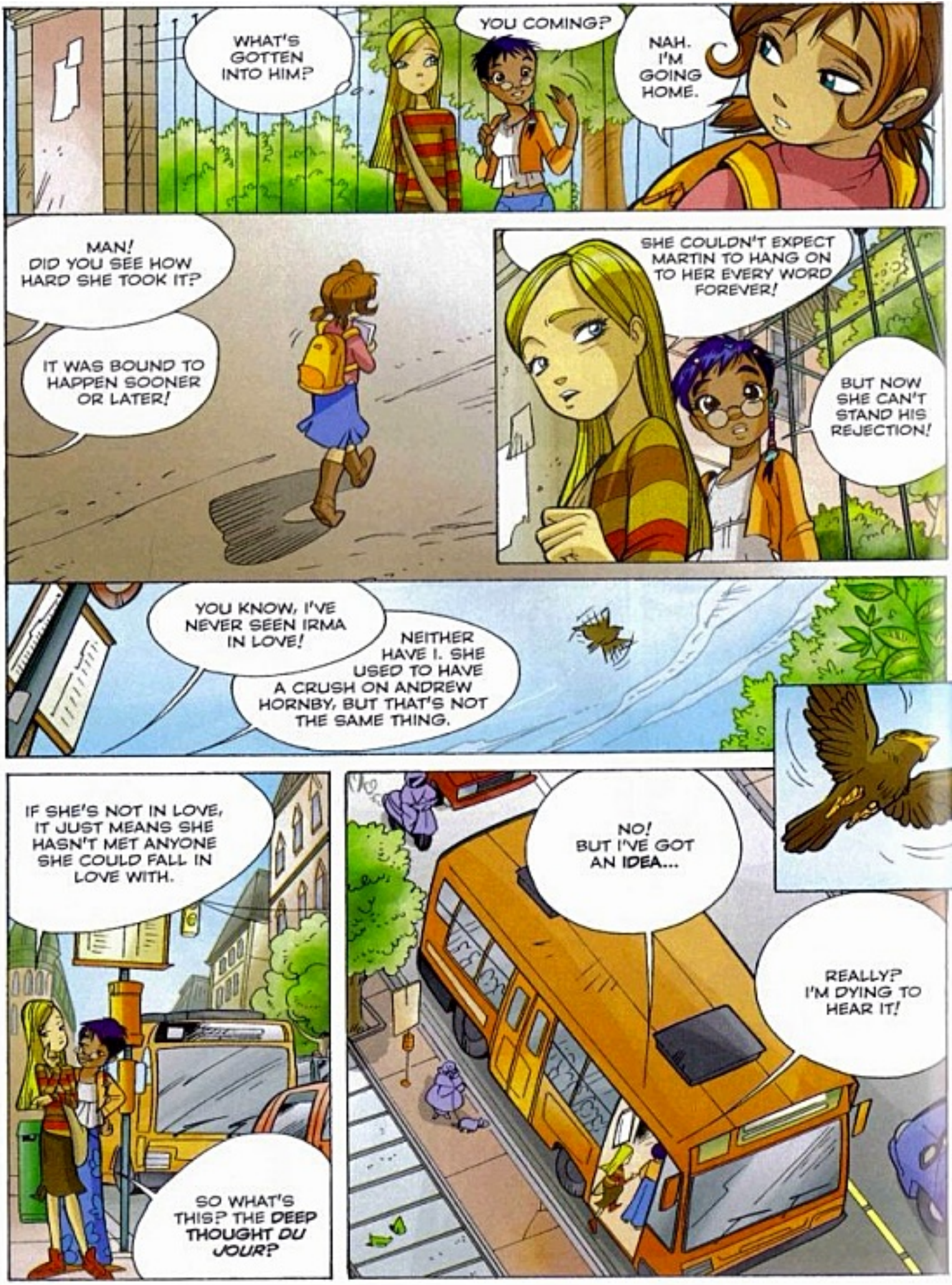

THE SCHOOL DAY'S OVER...
I ♡ YOU!
WHAT A DAY!
AT LEAST YOU'VE GOT AN EXCUSE! WE DIDN'T FINISH OUR TEST 'CAUSE WE WERE TOTALLY BRAIN-DEAD!
THERE THEY ARE!
CORNELIA AND WILL! THE ONLY ONES WHO FLUNKED THE MATH TEST!
LOOK WHO'S TALKING! YOU'RE REPEATING THE SAME GRADE LEVEL ONCE AGAIN!
AND YOU'RE STILL STRUGGLING FOR A C AVERAGE!
STILL BETTER THAN YOUR GRADE!
ROUGH MORNING FOR YOU GUYS, TOO?
EVEN WORSE.
SINCE WE GAVE UP THE GIFT OF XIN JING, WE CAN'T RECOUP OUR ENERGY! WE'RE ALWAYS EXHAUSTED.
YEAH. NOW I REALIZE HOW MUCH IT HELPED US ENDURE OUR POWERS!
AND KEPT OUR HAIR FROM GETTING TANGLED, TOO!
DO YOU WISH WE HADN'T GIVEN IT UP?
MAQI NEEDED IT MORE THAN WE DID!

BUT WE'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY TO KEEP OUR SPECIAL POWERS WITHOUT RUINING OUR REGULAR LIVES... I MEAN, IF THAT'S POSSIBLE!
ONCE WE COULD'VE ASKED THE ORACLE WHAT TO DO...
AND HE WOULD'VE ANSWERED US WITHOUT ANSWERING US, AS ALWAYS.
BUT IN THE END, HE STILL WOULD'VE HELPED US SOMEHOW...
I CAN'T STAND THE THOUGHT THAT ENDARNO MIGHT TAKE HIS PLACE.
HE GIVES ME THE CREEPS!
TRY TO BE OPTIMISTIC, CORNY!
WE MIGHT BE STANDING BESIDE THE NEXT ORACLE'S GRANDDAUGHTER!
I SURE HOPE NOT!
YOU'D RATHER IT WAS ENDARNO?
NO WAY!!! BUT I DON'T WANT TO SEE GRANDMA FORGET WHO SHE IS... AND MAYBE EVEN FORGET ABOUT ME!


KANDRAKAR. IT IS TIME TO BEGIN THE RESURGENCE CEREMONY, IN WHICH THE NEW ORACLE WILL BE ELECTED.
I DON'T LIKE IT, TIBOR! I DON'T LIKE IT ONE BIT!
IT'S THE CONGREGATION'S DECISION!
I THINK IT'S THE GREATEST MISTAKE OF THE CONGREGATION!
THE ORACLE WAS CAST OUT JUST WHEN HE'D MANAGED TO EXPRESS HIS HUMANITY!
YOUR ANGER WILL TURN INTO YOUR STRENGTH WHEN YOU BEAR THE MARK OF ILLUMINATION!
ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME WHO YOU'LL BE VOTING FOR?
- - -
IT'S TIME!

MAY THE CEREMONY BEGIN!
I, ENDARNO OF BASILIADE, ACCEPT THE ROLE OF SUMMONER. I AM PREPARED TO RECEIVE THE MARK OF ILLUMINATION AND THE TITLE OF ORACLE.
I, YAN LIN, ACCEPT THE ROLE OF SUMMONER. I AM PREPARED TO RECEIVE THE MARK OF ILLUMINATION AND THE TITLE OF ORACLE.
TIBOR, WE THE SUMMONERS ASK YOU TO EXPRESS YOUR WISHES.
SO BE IT.
MAY MY CHOICE BE WISE AND MAY IT BRING PEACE TO THE FORTRESS.

HEATHERFIELD.
CAN I HITCH A RIDE? MY DENTIST'S OFFICE IS NEAR YOUR PLACE!
HOP ON!
SEE YOU TOMORROW!
OH, MARTIN!
HURRY UP! I'M HUNGRY!
JUST A SEC!
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO START HELPING ME WITH FRENCH AGAIN?
I CAN'T, CUPCA... UM... IRMA!
AH, SO YOU'VE GOT DATES LINED UP EVERY AFTERNOON, HUH?
YEAH! SEE YOU AROUND.
HEY...


WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO HIM?
YOU COMING?
NAH. I'M GOING HOME.
MAN! DID YOU SEE HOW HARD SHE TOOK IT?
IT WAS BOUND TO HAPPEN SOONER OR LATER!
SHE COULDN'T EXPECT MARTIN TO HANG ON TO HER EVERY WORD FOREVER!
BUT NOW SHE CAN'T STAND HIS REJECTION!
YOU KNOW, I'VE NEVER SEEN IRMA IN LOVE!
NEITHER HAVE I. SHE USED TO HAVE A CRUSH ON ANDREW HORNBY, BUT THAT'S NOT THE SAME THING.
IF SHE'S NOT IN LOVE, IT JUST MEANS SHE HASN'T MET ANYONE SHE COULD FALL IN LOVE WITH.
SO WHAT'S THIS? THE DEEP THOUGHT DU JOUR?
NO! BUT I'VE GOT AN IDEA...
REALLY? I'M DYING TO HEAR IT!

WHY DON'T WE INTRODUCE IRMA TO A COUPLE OF NEW GUYS?
...SO SHE'LL FIND SOMEONE TO FALL IN LOVE WITH! GREAT IDEA, CORNELIA!
STAY OVER AND EAT AT MY PLACE! WE CAN PLAN IT ALL OUT!
THINK IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT WITH YOUR MOM?
NO PROBLEM! SHE WON'T MIND AN EXTRA PERSON AT THE TABLE... IN ANY CASE, I'LL ASK HER FIRST!
MEANWHILE...
LOOK OUT!
SKREEEK
SKREEEK
TUNK
OUCH!

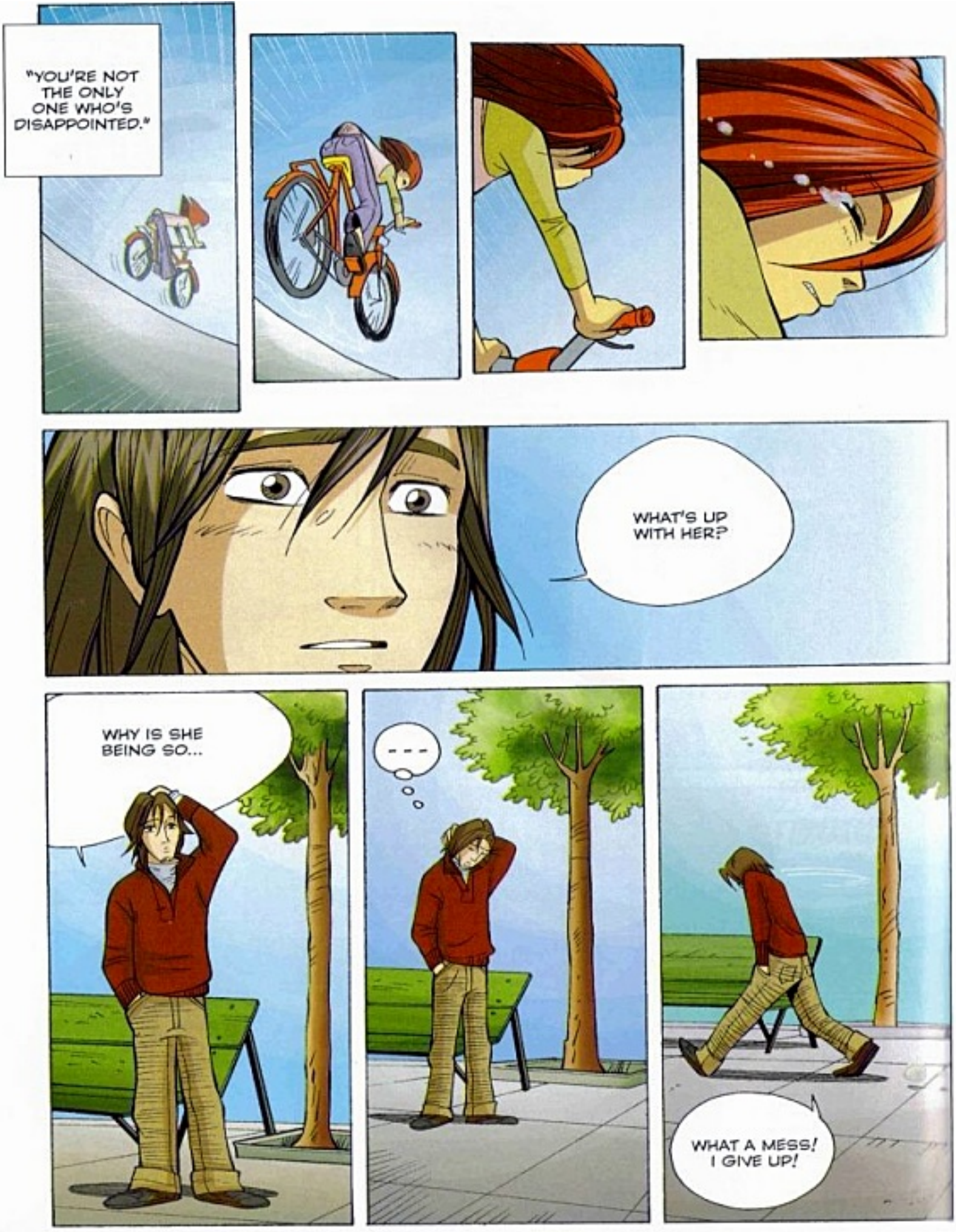
GIRLS, YOU SHOULD LOOK WHERE YOU'RE GOING!
UM... SORRY, MATT! THAT BUS CUT US OFF AND...
AWW, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! UMM... CAN I TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOMETHING, WILL?
I'LL JUST TAKE A LOOK INSIDE...
I FEEL LIKE DOING SOME HEAVY-DUTY SHOPPING! BYE-BYE!
HMM... SOMETHING'S UP!
LOOK AT THOSE TWO LITTLE LOVEBIRDS! I CAN JUST IMAGINE WHAT THEY'RE SAYING!
WILL, I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT YOU ANY LONGER!
NEITHER COULD I, MATT!
THEN WE CAN FINALLY BE TOGETHER FOREVER, WILL!
FOREVER AND EVER, MATT!
AH, THEY'RE SO ROMANTIC!

YAP! THE CD ERIC'S DYING TO HAVE! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND! AND IT'S ON SUPER SALE!
WHAT A FIND! I'LL GIVE IT TO ERIC TODAY!
I WANT A ROMANTIC AFTERNOON, JUST LIKE WILL AND MATT'S!
BUT ROMANTIC ISN'T EXACTLY THE RIGHT WORD!
I MEAN, I'M DISAPPOINTED IN YOU! YOU BELIEVED A RUMOR YOU HEARD AND YOU TOLD ME ABOUT IT AS IF IT WAS ABSOLUTELY TRUE!

DO YOU REALIZE REBECCA COULD'VE LOST HER JOB BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU TOLD ME?
HOW CAN I EXPLAIN THIS TO HIM?
OUR ASTRAL DROPS ARE LONG GONE...
...BUT THEY'VE DEFINITELY LEFT THEIR MARK!

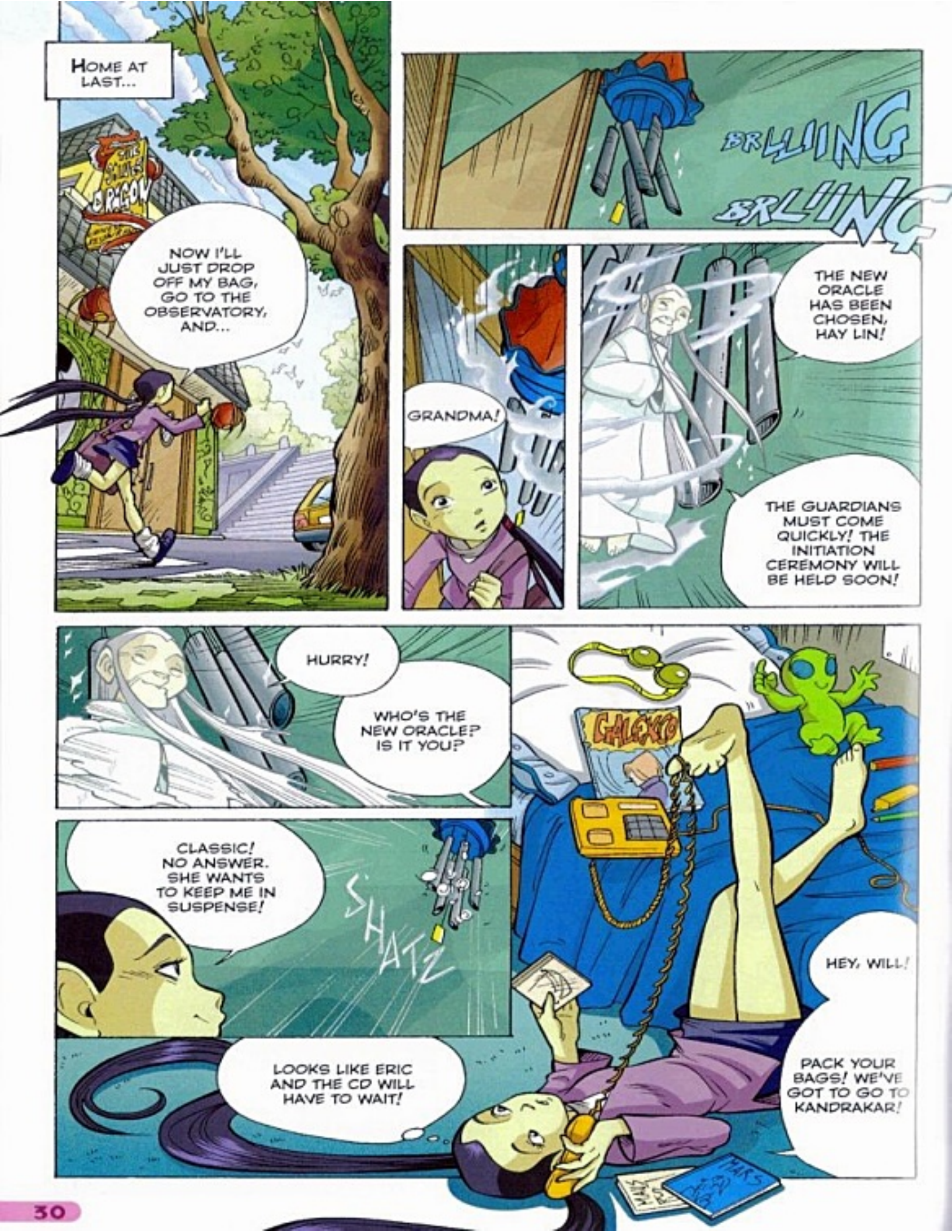
COME ON, WILL! ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME? DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU RISKED DOING TO REBECCA?
PFFT... LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, HERE'S A STORY OF A YOUNG MAN IN LOVE...
...WHO DEFENDS HIS BELOVED ORUBE...
...FROM THE EVIL WILL!
AFTER ALL, YOU WERE THE ONE WHO GOT HER THE JOB AT THE SHOP IN THE FIRST PLACE! YOU SHOULD'VE KNOWN SHE'D NEVER...
REBECCA! REBECCA! REBECCA! STOP HIDING BEHIND HER!
IF YOU CAN'T BE HONEST WITH ME, AT LEAST BE HONEST WITH YOURSELF!
GO ON! GATHER THE GUTS TO TELL ME THE TRUTH!
YOU CHOSE ORUBE, DIDN'T YOU? I DON'T BLAME YOU, BUT AT LEAST ADMIT IT!

MEEEOOW!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE MY FRIEND.
I. THOUGHT. YOU. KNEW. ME.
BUT. INSTEAD. YOU. BELIEVED. WHATEVER. YOU. WANTED. TO.
YOU. NEVER. ASKED. ME. WHY. I. WAS. ACTING. LIKE. THAT. YOU. DIDN'T. THINK. THAT. I. MIGHT. HAVE. A. REASON.
I. THOUGHT. I. COULD. TRUST. YOU.
YOU. JUDGED. ME. CONDEMNED. ME. AND. BLAMED. ME. WITHOUT. GIVING. ME. A. CHANCE. TO. EXPLAIN.


"YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO'S DISAPPOINTED."
WHAT'S UP WITH HER?
WHY IS SHE BEING SO...

WHAT A MESS! I GIVE UP!

DOCTOR
KARL JANK
DENTIST
I READ THIS GREAT BOOK ABOUT A DERANGED DENTIST WHO HAD FUN RIPPING OUT HIS PATIENTS' HEALTHY TEETH... AND, AS FAR AS I CAN SEE, YOU DON'T HAVE A SINGLE CAVITY!
GHHH...
HA! HA! HA! I WAS JUST KIDDING!
IN ANY CASE, I HAVE GREAT NEWS FOR YOU. YOUR TEETH LOOK BETTER THAN I HAD EXPECTED. A COUPLE MORE MONTHS AND WE CAN REMOVE YOUR BRACES!
REALLY?
YES, REALLY! WHY THE LONG FACE? WILL YOU BE SAD TO SEE THEM GO?
A LITTLE. I MEAN, I LIKE THEM! THEY'VE REALLY GROWN ON ME!
CHEER UP, HAY LIN! YOU'LL HAVE THEM A LITTLE LONGER, AND THEN YOU CAN SHOW OFF YOUR PERFECT SMILE!
TAP
THANKS, DOC!


HOME AT LAST...
NOW I'LL JUST DROP OFF MY BAG, GO TO THE OBSERVATORY, AND...
BRLLING
BRLLING
GRANDMA!
THE NEW ORACLE HAS BEEN CHOSEN, HAY LIN!
THE GUARDIANS MUST COME QUICKLY! THE INITIATION CEREMONY WILL BE HELD SOON!
HURRY!
WHO'S THE NEW ORACLE? IS IT YOU?
CLASSIC! NO ANSWER. SHE WANTS TO KEEP ME IN SUSPENSE!
SHATZ
LOOKS LIKE ERIC AND THE CD WILL HAVE TO WAIT!
HEY, WILL!
PACK YOUR BAGS! WE'VE GOT TO GO TO KANDRAKAR!

NO, THANKS. I REALLY CAN'T. THE FOUR OF YOU HAVE FUN!
BUT WILL...
SHE HUNG UP!
TUT TUT TUT
HOW DO YOU THINK I FELT WHEN THE PRINCIPAL CALLED ME?
IF I'D KNOWN YOU WERE DOING BADLY AT SCHOOL, I COULD'VE HELPED YOU BEFORE YOUR GRADES STARTED SUFFERING!
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY ANYTHING TO ME? WHY NOT?
AND WHILE I CAN FORGIVE POOR GRADES, I WILL NEVER, EVER TOLERATE SUCH RUDE BEHAVIOR!
YOU'VE GOT TO GROW UP, WILL! LIFE ISN'T A GAME! AND SCHOOL IS YOUR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY!

YOU'RE MEETING UP WITH THE PRINCIPAL TOMORROW. SHE'S DECIDED TO TAKE DISCIPLINARY MEASURES AGAINST STUDENTS WITH FAILING GRADES!
AND I GAVE HER MY FULL SUPPORT. NOW GO TO YOUR ROOM AND STUDY!
YES, MOM...
WHERE DID I GO WRONG?
I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE!
IF MY ASTRAL DROP WAS TRYING TO RUIN MY LIFE, SHE DID A GREAT JOB!
MATT HATES ME. MY MOM HATES ME. I'M DOING LOUSY AT SCHOOL.
I HOPE THINGS ARE GOING BETTER FOR THE OTHERS, AT LEAST!

VAIN HOPES.
ALL RIGHT, MS. KNICKERBOCHER. THANKS FOR CALLING.
SOMEBODY'S GOT A LOT OF EXPLAINING TO DO!
IRMA!
WHAT ON EARTH DID YOU DO?
AHEM... I... YOU KNOW HOW IT IS... I FELT LIKE I NEEDED A LITTLE CHANGE!
...
MOM? SAY SOMETHING! ANYTHING! YELL AT ME! JUST DON'T STAND THERE WITHOUT TALKING!

I JUST SPOKE WITH PRINCIPAL KNICKERBOCHER. SHE TOLD ME YOU'RE NOT DOING WELL AT SCHOOL AND THAT YOUR BEHAVIOR LEAVES MUCH TO BE DESIRED!
MOM, I...
LET ME FINISH. I CAME HERE TO TALK TO YOU AND I BARELY EVEN RECOGNIZE YOU...
HONEY, IF SOMETHING'S WRONG, YOU CAN TELL ME ABOUT IT!
I MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP YOU. ISN'T THAT WHAT MOMS ARE FOR?
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
AND IF YOU WANT TO KNOW, THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH MY LIFE!
THAT! THAT THING CALLED IRMA!
WHAT IS IT?

TAKE A LOOK AT ME AND TELL ME I'M NOT GOOFY!
I'VE GOT TURKEY KNEES AND DUCK FEET!
I'VE GOT CHUBBY CHEEKS, A FISH FACE, AND CROOKED GUMS!
?!
CROOKED GUMS? WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE?
LIKE THE ONES ON SOMEBODY WHO'S ABNORMAL. ONE WHO DOESN'T FALL IN LOVE WITH ANYONE, UNLIKE ALL HER FRIENDS!
I'VE EVEN MANAGED TO MAKE MARTIN HATE ME, MOM! WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?
COME WITH ME!
LOOK...
IS THIS A BOTANY LESSON OR SOMETHING?
LET'S JUST CALL IT MOTHERLY ADVICE!

"YOU SEE... THE DAISIES ARE IN FULL BLOOM."

"BUT THE MOST PRECIOUS FLOWER, THE **ROSE**, HASN'T BLOSSOMED YET."

"IT'S GOT ITS OWN TIMING. BUT WHEN IT BLOSSOMS, IT'LL BE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL FLOWER OF ALL."

THE ONLY MISTAKE AN ORCHID COULD EVER MAKE WOULD BE **TRYING TO BE JUST A DAISY!**

I GET IT.

IT'S JUST THAT SOMETIMES I FEEL MORE LIKE AN **UGLY TURNIP** THAN A PRECIOUS FLOWER!

HA! HA! HA! HONEY, I USED TO FEEL THAT WAY, TOO!

DRIIN DRIINN DRIIIN

COME ON, IRMA! PICK UP THE PHONE, WOULD YOU?

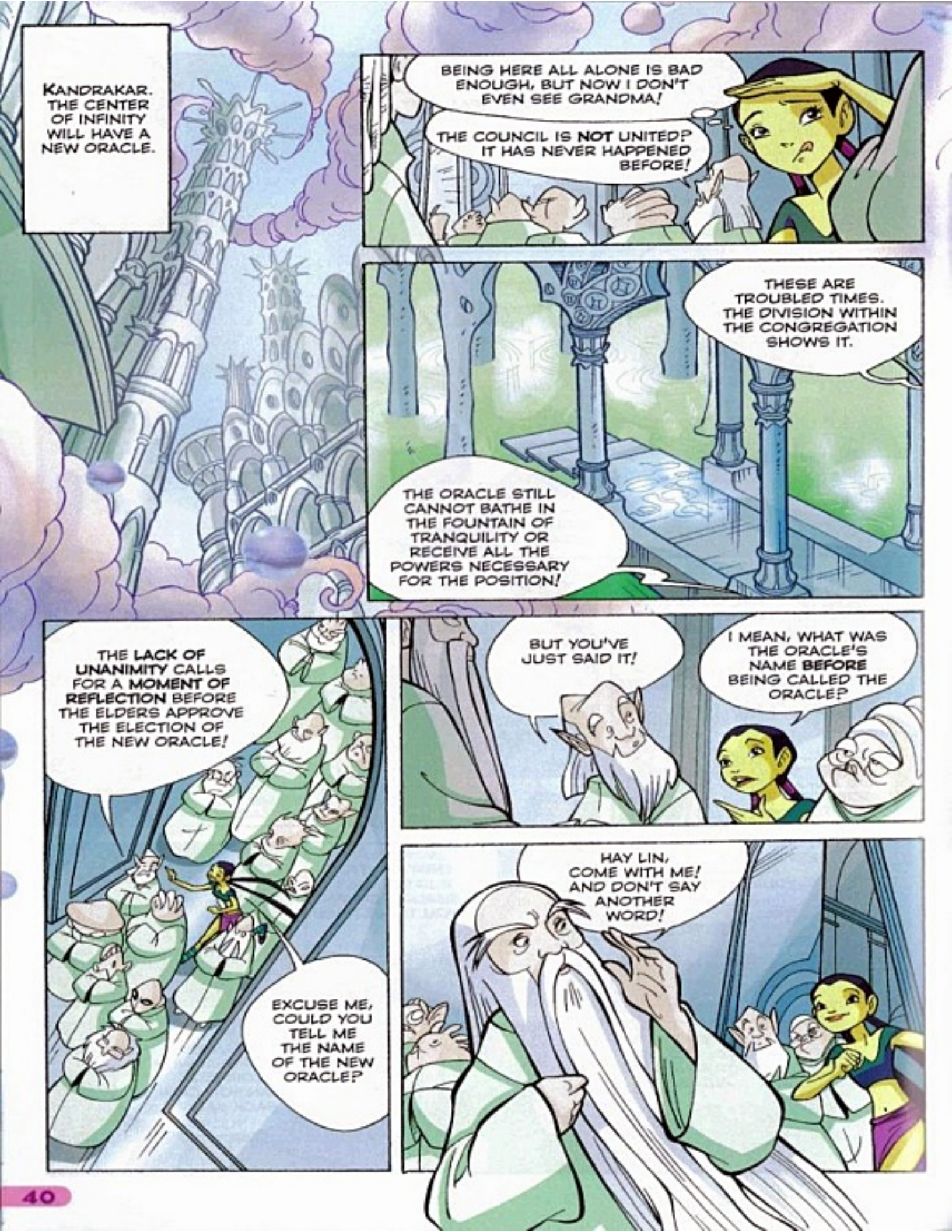
AREN'T YOU GOING TO ANSWER THAT?

WHOEVER IT IS, YOU'RE MORE IMPORTANT! THEY'LL CALL BACK!

"YOU SEE, BEFORE I MARRIED YOUR FATHER, I KIND OF FELT LIKE A TURNIP... AND A LUMPY ONE, TOO!"
HA! HA! HA! I DON'T BELIEVE YOU!
NO, REALLY! THEN WHEN I MET TOM, I FOUND OUT HOW SPECIAL I WAS. I'M REALLY LUCKY I MARRIED YOUR DAD!
WRONG! I'M THE ONE WHO'S LUCKY YOU GUYS GOT MARRIED! WHAT WOULD I DO WITHOUT A MOM LIKE YOU?
AND WHAT ABOUT THAT GREAT PRESENT YOU GAVE ME? I MEAN THAT MONSTER OF A LITTLE BROTHER!
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE FEELING BETTER.
YOU BET! I'M ALSO READY TO FACE THE PRINCIPAL. THE NEXT TIME KNICKERBOCHER CALLS YOU, SHE'LL BE SINGING MY PRAISES!
AND YOUR... UM... YOUR HAIR?
IT'LL GO BACK TO ITS NATURAL COLOR. IT WAS ONLY A TEMPORARY DYE!
UMM...
THANKS A LOT, MOM!
SMACK

THE COOK RESIDENCE. KNICKERBOCHER HAS JUST CALLED HERE, AS WELL.
YES, GOOD AFTERNOON. THIS IS TARANEE'S MOTHER. HOW MAY I HELP YOU?
WE DID IT! WE'RE THE GREATEST!
NOT ONLY THE GREATEST, BUT THE GREATEST DATING AGENCY EVER!
HA! HA! HA! EVEN IF WE CONTINUE DOING BADLY AT SCHOOL, WE'VE GOT A FALLBACK CAREER LINED UP FOR US!
BUT I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT HUGH JONES...
I DON'T THINK HE'S THE RIGHT GUY FOR IRMA!
I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT RIGHT NOW!
HE WAS THE ONLY ONE FREE TOMORROW. ANYWAY, HE'S FINE FOR OUR FIRST TRY...
OUR FIRST TRY?
THE COOK-HALE DATING AGENCY NEVER GIVES UP!
HEE! HEE! HEE!

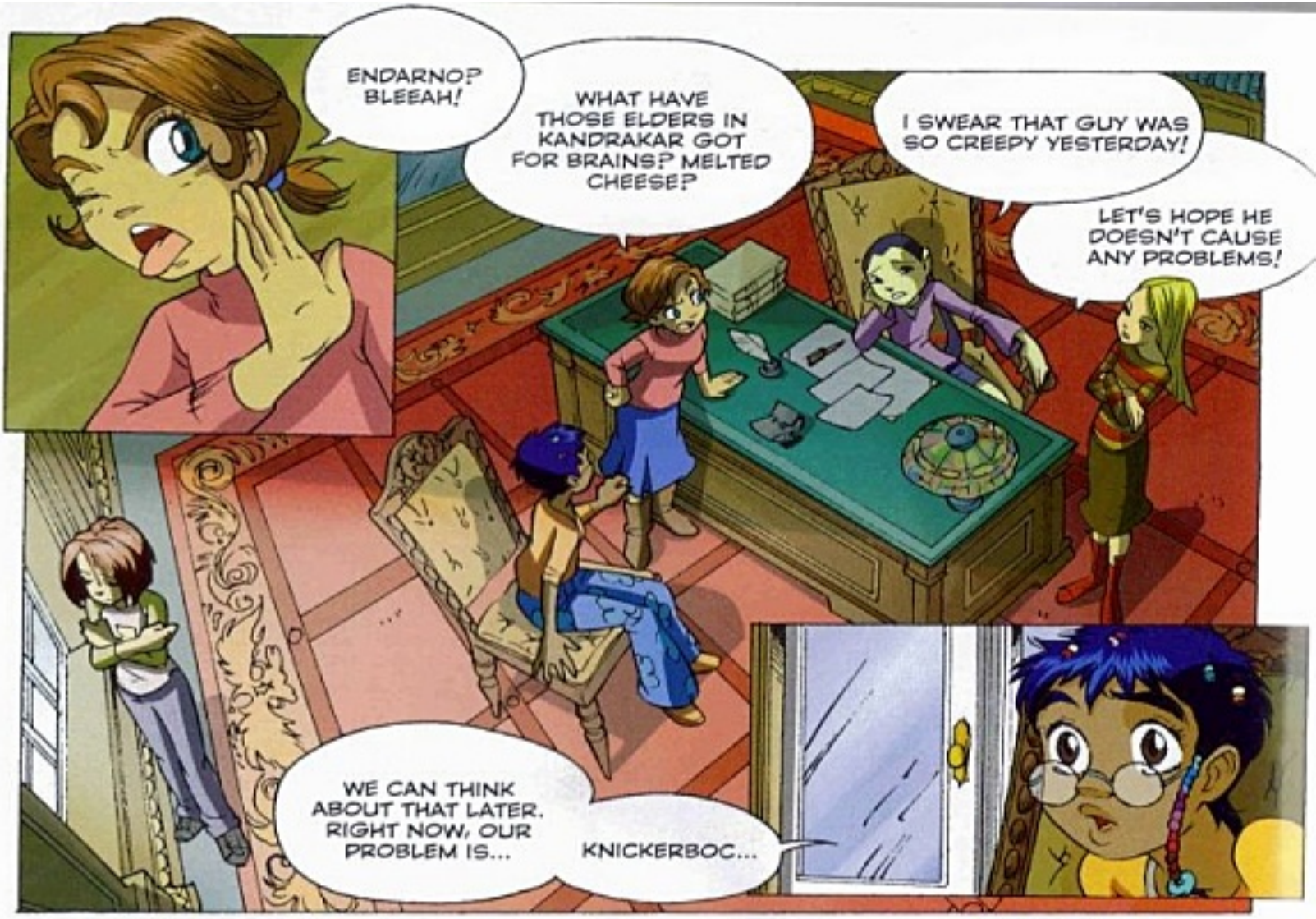
RED ALERT, TARA!
GOTCHA!
A RED ALERT MEANS "BEWARE OF FURIOUS MOTHER," NOT "TURN BRIGHT RED," YOU KNOW!
UH... RIGHT! SORRY!
TARANEE!
PRINCIPAL KNICKERBOCHER JUST CALLED AND INFORMED ME ABOUT YOUR GRADES...
I KNOW... THERE WAS A BIG SCIENCE TEST!
IT WAS DIFFICULT AND I MADE A MESS OF IT. THAT'S WHY CORNELIA'S HERE.
RIGHT!
SHE'S ALREADY TAKEN THE SUBJECT, AND SHE'S AGREED TO HELP ME WITH THE THINGS I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
I HAVE TO GO NOW, BUT WE'RE GOING TO TALK LATER!
YOU LIED TO YOUR MOTHER?
KRRRING! KRRRING!
NOT EXACTLY! LATER ON, I REALLY DO WANT YOU TO HELP ME!
THIS IS HAY LIN. MAY I TALK TO TARANEE, PLEASE?
TARANEE'S STUDYING WITH CORNELIA. CAN YOU CALL BACK LATER?


KANDRAKAR. THE CENTER OF INFINITY WILL HAVE A NEW ORACLE.
BEING HERE ALL ALONE IS BAD ENOUGH, BUT NOW I DON'T EVEN SEE GRANDMA!
THE COUNCIL IS **NOT** UNITED? IT HAS NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE!
THESE ARE TROUBLED TIMES. THE DIVISION WITHIN THE CONGREGATION SHOWS IT.
THE ORACLE STILL CANNOT BATHE IN THE FOUNTAIN OF TRANQUILITY OR RECEIVE ALL THE POWERS NECESSARY FOR THE POSITION!
THE **LACK OF UNANIMITY** CALLS FOR A **MOMENT OF REFLECTION** BEFORE THE ELDERS APPROVE THE ELECTION OF THE NEW ORACLE!
EXCUSE ME, COULD YOU TELL ME THE NAME OF THE NEW ORACLE?
BUT YOU'VE JUST SAID IT!
I MEAN, WHAT WAS THE ORACLE'S NAME **BEFORE** BEING CALLED THE ORACLE?
HAY LIN, COME WITH ME! AND DON'T SAY ANOTHER WORD!

"MAY THE ORACLE RECEIVE THE SYMBOL OF POWER, AND WITH IT, FORETHOUGHT AND VIRTUE."
SHHHH...
WHAT'S HAPPENING, TIBOR?
"MAY THE CHOSEN ORACLE RECEIVE THE MARK OF ILLUMINATION, AND WITH IT, KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM."

AAAH!
I, ENDARNO OF BASILIADE, RELINQUISH MY NAME AND ACCEPT THAT OF THE ORACLE.
I SWEAR TO SERVE THIS FORTRESS GUIDED BY THE VIRTUE AND WISDOM THAT HAVE BEEN BESTOWED ON ME.
I SWEAR ON MY HONOR THAT THESE WILL BE **MEMORABLE TIMES** FOR KANDRAKAR!
GRANDMA!

WE WILL CHANGE THE LAWS THAT FORCED US TO BANISH MY PREDECESSOR, MAKING US LOSE AN IMPORTANT GUIDE!
THE FORTRESS WILL NO LONGER BE **CUT OFF** FROM THE REST OF CREATION. IT WILL BE A PART OF IT!
THE FORTRESS HAS THE POWER TO **RULE** THE UNIVERSE AND THE **MORAL OBLIGATION** TO DO SO!
THE ORACLE MUST ACT **WITHOUT** THE SIN OF PRIDE!
FOR THIS REASON, **THE AGE-OLD LAWS OF KANDRAKAR MUST BE CHANGED!**
End of Part One.


ENDARNO? BLEEAH!
WHAT HAVE THOSE ELDERS IN KANDRAKAR GOT FOR BRAINS? MELTED CHEESE?
I SWEAR THAT GUY WAS SO CREEPY YESTERDAY!
LET'S HOPE HE DOESN'T CAUSE ANY PROBLEMS!
WE CAN THINK ABOUT THAT LATER. RIGHT NOW, OUR PROBLEM IS...
KNICKERBOC...

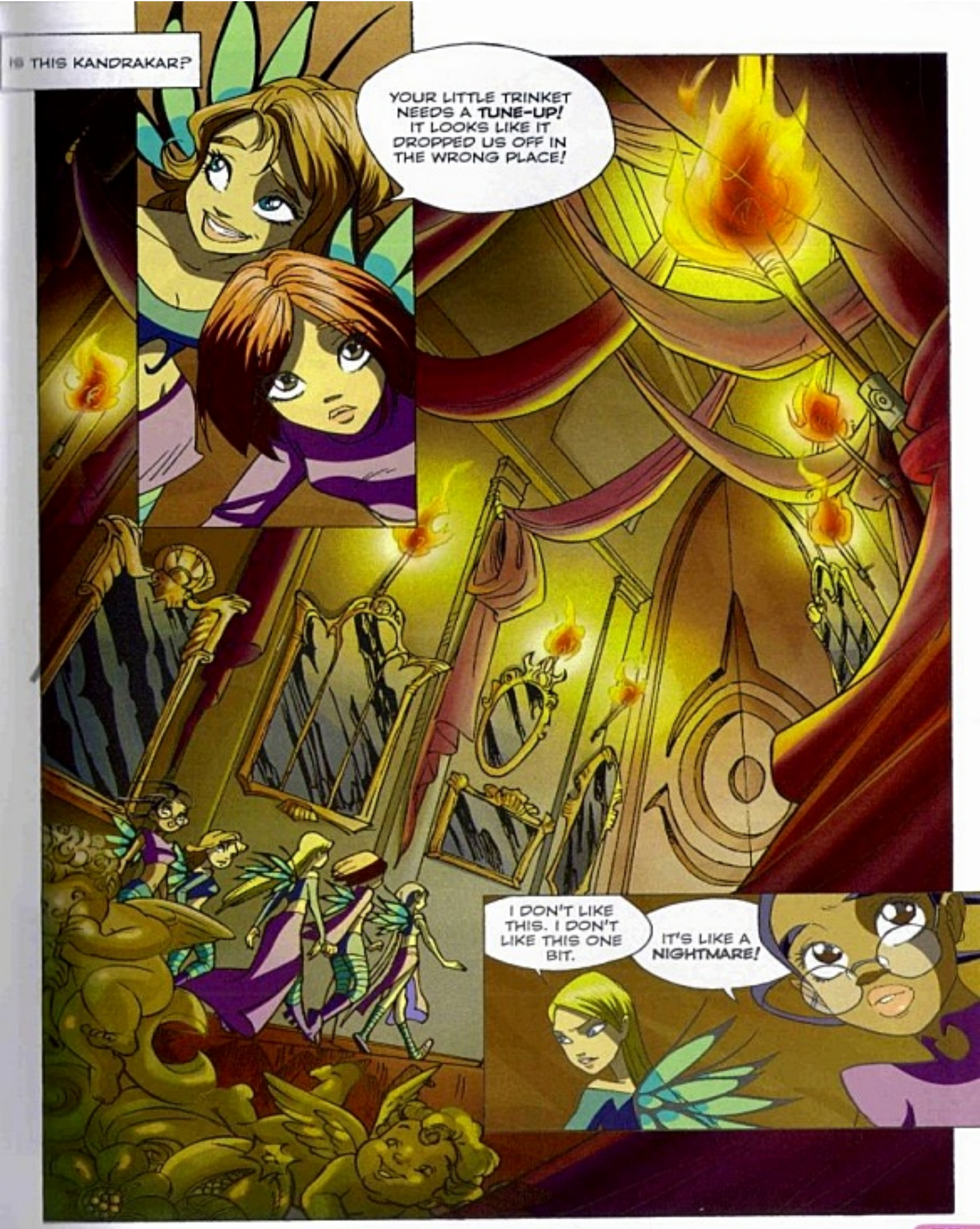
HELLO, EVERYONE.

OH... I DIDN'T KNOW I'VE BEEN **REPLACED!**
SORRY, MA'AM! I WAS JUST SITTING IN YOUR CHAIR!
I'LL GET STRAIGHT TO THE POINT...

YOUR TEACHERS ARE AS DISPLEASED WITH YOUR PERFORMANCE AS I AM WITH YOUR CONDUCT. NEVERTHELESS, WE'VE DECIDED TO GIVE YOU ANOTHER CHANCE.

WE'VE ASSIGNED YOU TO DO EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES THROUGH WHICH YOU WILL EARN EXTRA CREDIT.
HALE, COOK, LAIR, AND LIN... YOU'LL HELP OUT AT THE MUSEUM AS TOUR GUIDES. IN TWO HOURS, YOU'LL BE MEETING WITH THE DIRECTOR IN HIS OFFICE.
YAP! WE'RE TOGETHER!
WE'LL MAKE YOU LOOK SO GOOD!
VANDOM! YOU'VE BEEN ASSIGNED TO ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC SERVICE. YOU'LL BE HELPING OUT A NUMBER OF ANIMAL SHELTERS.
WILL, DID YOU HEAR ME?
CAN YOU HEAR ME?
CAN YOU HEAR ME, GIRLS?
GRAND-MA?
I MUST'VE EATEN TOO MUCH CAKE... I'M HALLUCINATING!

THE ORACLE NOTICED THAT MOST OF YOU WEREN'T THERE FOR THE CEREMONY AND HE WANTS A WORD WITH YOU.
RIGHT NOW, AND ALL OF YOU TOGETHER!
FIRST I'D LIKE TO TAKE SOMETHING TO ERIC AND...
THE ORACLE SAID RIGHT NOW, AND TOGETHER!
?!
WHAT WAS I SAYING? OH, YES... WELL... I SUPPOSE THAT'S ALL.
THANK YOU, MA'AM!
I DON'T LIKE THIS. WHAT DO WE DO?
WE DON'T HAVE ANY CHOICE...
HEART OF KANDRAKAR, TAKE US TO...


IS THIS KANDRAKAR?
YOUR LITTLE TRINKET NEEDS A TUNE-UP! IT LOOKS LIKE IT DROPPED US OFF IN THE WRONG PLACE!
I DON'T LIKE THIS. I DON'T LIKE THIS ONE BIT.
IT'S LIKE A NIGHTMARE!

WELCOME!
GRANDMA!
WHAT HAPPENED TO THIS PLACE?
THERE HAVE BEEN A **FEW MINOR CHANGES!**
MINOR? WHAT WOULD **MAJOR** CHANGES BE? **BURNING IT TO THE GROUND?**
LET'S SAY THAT **THE ORACLE** HAS GIVEN US A CLEAR **IDEA OF OUR NEW STYLE!**
PLEASE, DON'T CALL HIM THE ORACLE! AT LEAST WITH US, COULD YOU KEEP CALLING HIM ENDARNO?
WE'LL NEED SOME TIME TO GET USED TO ALL OF THIS!
I DON'T WANT TO GET USED TO IT!
THE NEW **BOSS** IS TROUBLE. I CAN FEEL IT.
YOU HAVE TO BE WISE, GIRLS, AND PATIENT... EVEN MORE SO THAN I AM MYSELF.
REMEMBER THAT **YOUR** ORACLE HAD GREAT RESPECT FOR ENDARNO.
WE NEVER SAID **OUR** ORACLE DIDN'T HAVE ANY FAULTS.

"LISTEN..."
ENDARNO AND THE ORACLE BOTH CAME FROM BASILIADE, ORUBE'S WORLD.
THAT DOESN'T SOUND TOO PROMISING!
ONCE, THERE WAS A TIME WHEN THE TRIBES OF BASILIADE FOUGHT AGAINST EACH OTHER. PAIN AND DESPERATION REIGNED SUPREME.
ENDARNO WAS A GREAT WARRIOR OF THE PEOPLE OF THE SHANTAS. HE WAS AS BRAVE AND PROUD AS HE WAS NOBLE AND LOYAL.
THE SHANTAS WERE LED BY SHARR THE TERRIBLE. HIS SOLE AIM WAS TO DESTROY ALL THE OTHER TRIBES OF BASILIADE.
WHAT AN UGLY MUG!
IF OUR PAL ENDARNO LEARNED EVERYTHING HE KNOWS FROM SHARR, THERE'S NOTHING TO BE HAPPY ABOUT!
LET ME FINISH...
ON THE SIXTH NEW MOON OF THAT ERA, THE SHANTAS' RAGE DEFEATED THE ASHAS, THE ORACLE'S PEOPLE.

I, SHARR, SENTENCE ALL ASHA PRISONERS TO ETERNAL OBLIVION!
STOP!
I ASK THAT OUR VICTORY NOT BE ANOTHER STEP IN THE WAR, BUT THE BEGINNING OF PEACE FOR ALL.
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS, LITTLE ASHA?
MAY WISDOM ILLUMINATE YOUR DECISION.
THEN YOU WILL BE THE FIRST TO FALL!

KLANG
ENDARNO, YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS OUTRAGE!
THE YOUNG MAN... WAS THAT THE ORACLE?
YOU RECOGNIZED HIM?
SO WHAT HAPPENED THEN?
AAAAHH!
YIKES! IT'S THAT UGLY CREEP AGAIN!
TAKE HIM AWAY.
YOU'VE DESTROYED MY REIGN! I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU FOR THIS!
IF I MAY, SIRE...
YOUNG ASHA...

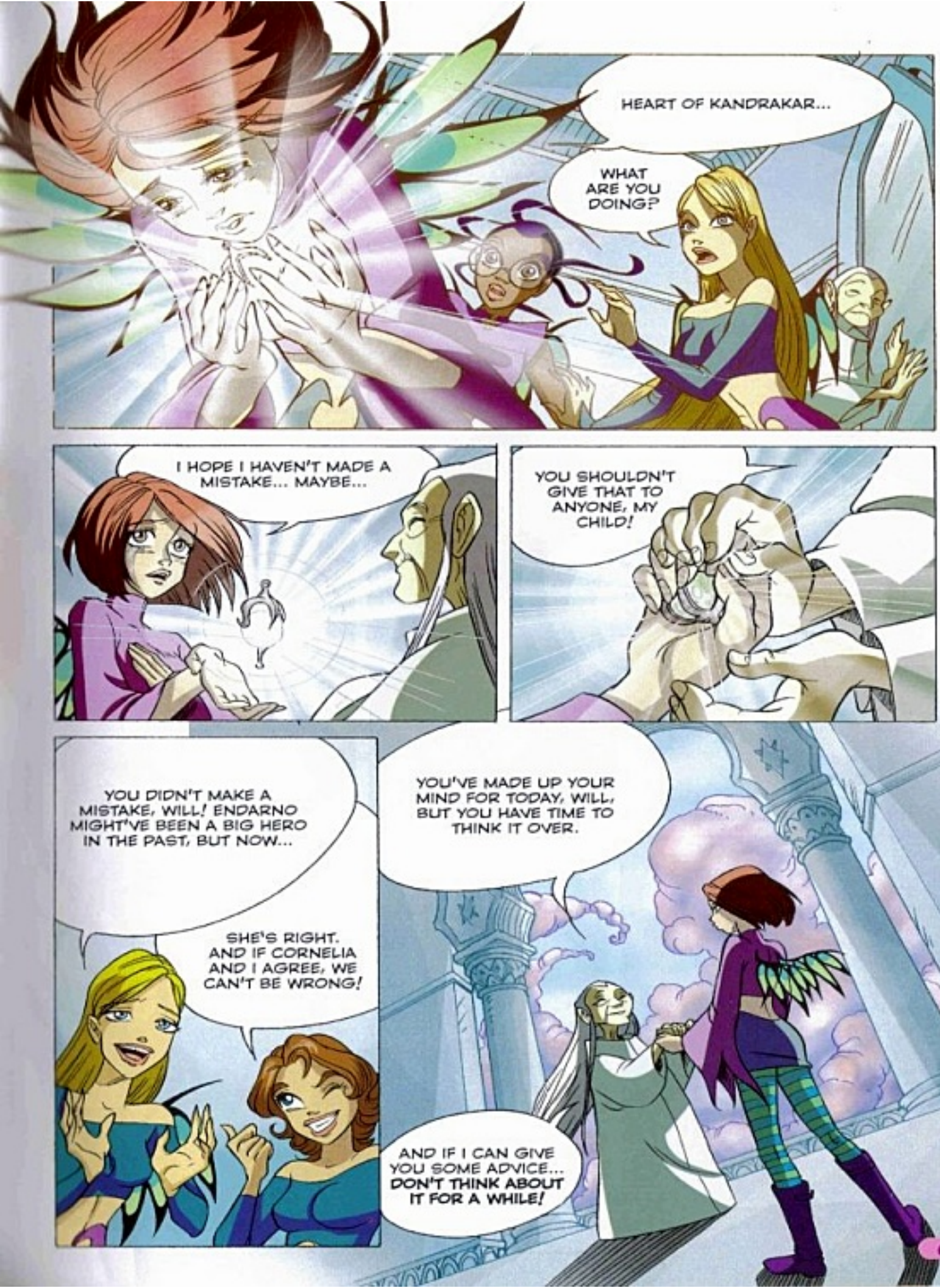
I THANK YOU FOR SAVING MY PEOPLE AND MY INSIGNIFICANT LIFE, BUT I WILL ALWAYS BE **INDEBTED** TO YOU FOR WHAT YOU HAVE TAUGHT ME WITH YOUR COURAGE.
THERE IS GREAT **STRENGTH** WITHIN YOU.
AND IT IS NOT THE STRENGTH OF A HAND THAT BRANDISHES A SWORD.
SIRE?
I SPEAK OF YOUR **INNER POWER**. OF THE CALLING I FELT WHEN SHARR'S BLADE WAS ABOUT TO STRIKE YOU DOWN.
TODAY, I FINALLY REBELLED AGAINST THE **TYRANT**. AND IT HAPPENED BECAUSE OF **YOUR PRESENCE.**
CULTIVATE YOUR POWER. BASILIADE WILL HAVE GREAT NEED OF IT.
WHAT IS YOUR NAME, YOUNG ASHA?
YAN LIN!
MY NAME IS...
IT IS TIME. THE ORACLE IS WAITING.
WE'RE TOTALLY READY! NOW IT'LL ALMOST BE A PLEASURE TO SEE ENDARNO.

THE COUNCIL HALL. THE ORACLE.
I WAS DEEPLY GRIEVED...
...TO DISCOVER THAT MOST OF YOU FAILED TO ATTEND THE INITIATION CEREMONY!
LOOKS LIKE THE GREAT WARRIOR HAS GOTTEN PRETTY LAZY!

AS YOU ARE ALL SO VERY BUSY, I WON'T KEEP YOU FOR LONG.
I HAVE ONLY ONE REQUEST FOR THE KEEPER OF THE SYMBOL OF THIS FORTRESS. COME HERE, WILL.
WHAT IS IT?
GIVE BACK THE HEART OF KANDRAKAR.
IT CAN'T BE!
NO!
FROM YOU, I COULD HAVE EXPECTED NOTHING ELSE.

I CANNOT DEMAND THAT THE HEART BE **RETURNED** TO THE FORTRESS IMMEDIATELY.
ONLY ITS KEEPER CAN DECIDE TO GIVE IT BACK.
EXACTLY.
HOWEVER, I ASK THE GUARDIANS TO **REFLECT**. THEIR YOUNG AGE AND THEIR AFFECTION TOWARDS MY PREDECESSOR...
...HAVE CLOUDED THEIR JUDGMENT.
LET'S STAY CALM, GUYS.
WE'RE WITH YOU.
IF THE KEEPER HAD GIVEN THE HEART TO ME, I WOULD HAVE RETURNED IT TO HER IMMEDIATELY, **BOWING DOWN TO HONOR HER.**
YET IT IS CLEAR THAT THESE GUARDIANS ARE **TOO IMMATURE** TO RECOGNIZE THE AUTHORITY OF THE COUNCIL AND ITS DECISIONS.
IT'S UNHEARD OF!
LUBA WAS RIGHT. THESE GIRLS ARE **UNWORTHY.**
MAY THE GUARDIANS RETURN TO THEIR OWN WORLD. KANDRAKAR HAS NO NEED OF THEM FOR THE TIME BEING.
COME WITH ME.

MAY THE COUNCIL HONOR VAAL OF MERIDIAN.
HE SHALL BE THE ORACLE'S NEW ADVISOR!
COME IN.
I SEE THAT ENDARNO THE INTERIOR DECORATOR HASN'T GOTTEN AROUND TO THIS HALL YET.
AND TO THINK I SAID IT WOULD BE A PLEASURE TO SEE HIM!
I'M SORRY, GUYS. I JUST COULDN'T DO IT. IT FELT LIKE HE WAS ASKING ME TO GIVE UP A PART OF MYSELF, LIKE HE WAS ASKING ME TO GIVE HIM MY REAL HEART.
AND I COULDN'T DO IT.


HEART OF KANDRAKAR...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I HOPE I HAVEN'T MADE A MISTAKE... MAYBE...
YOU SHOULDN'T GIVE THAT TO ANYONE, MY CHILD!
YOU DIDN'T MAKE A MISTAKE, WILL! ENDARNO MIGHT'VE BEEN A BIG HERO IN THE PAST, BUT NOW...
SHE'S RIGHT. AND IF CORNELIA AND I AGREE, WE CAN'T BE WRONG!
YOU'VE MADE UP YOUR MIND FOR TODAY, WILL, BUT YOU HAVE TIME TO THINK IT OVER.
AND IF I CAN GIVE YOU SOME ADVICE... DON'T THINK ABOUT IT FOR A WHILE!

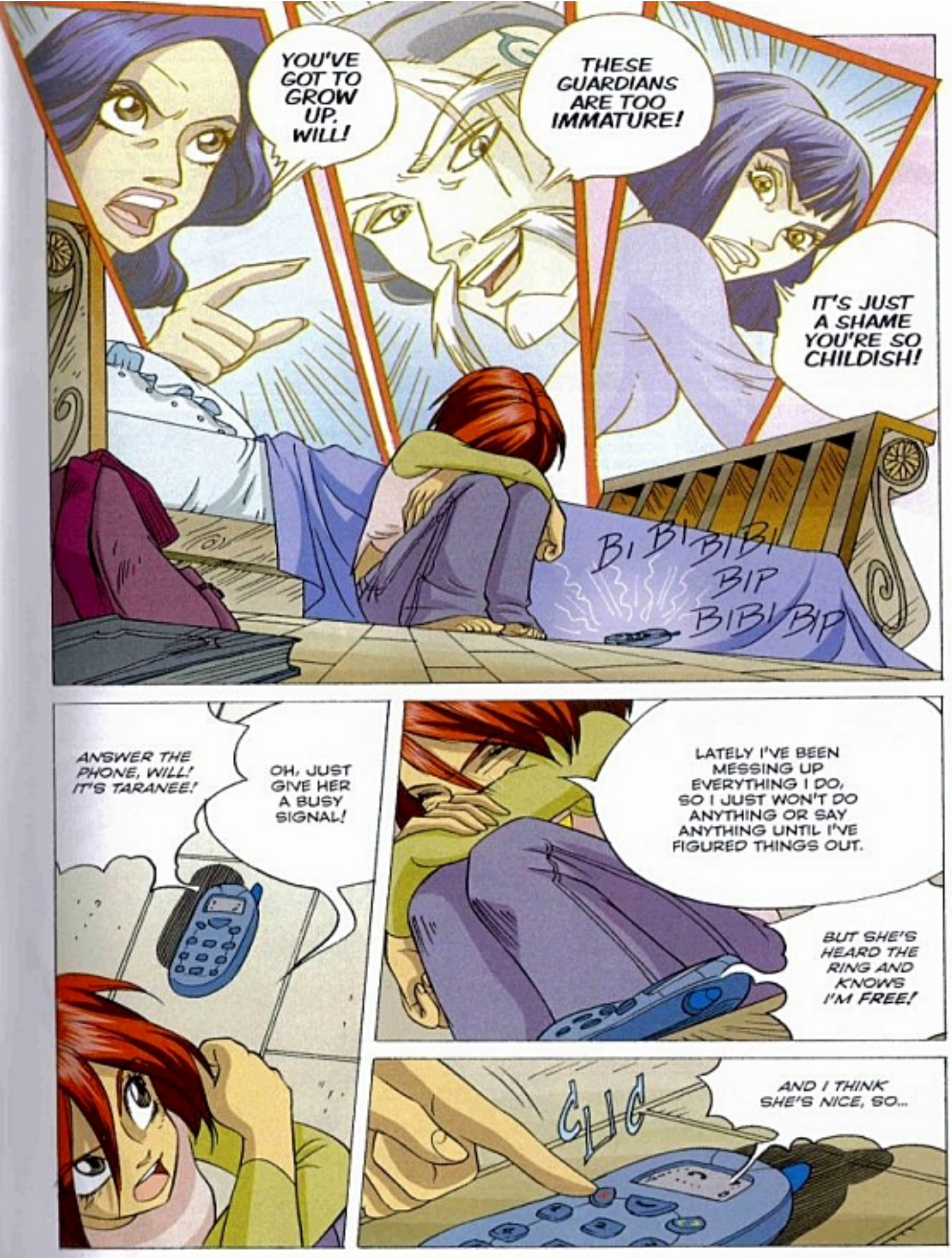
EXTRA CREDIT TIME.
HAY LIN HAS TO START RIGHT AWAY.
RIGHT AWAY NOW OR RIGHT AWAY ANY DAY NOW?
I'LL NEED TIME TO READ ALL THESE BOOKS. BESIDES, TODAY I REALLY WANTED TO SEE A FRIEND OF MINE...
A STUDENT IS VISITING THE **PREHISTORIC** EXHIBIT TOMORROW.
AND YOU'RE GOING TO BE HER GUIDE. JUST STUDY THE ITEMS ON DISPLAY.
YOU CAN STAY HERE TO STUDY. IT'LL BE MUCH EASIER THAT WAY.
BUT, DIRECTOR... AAAH... AAAAAH...
DON'T CALL ME **DIRECTOR**, PLEASE!
AH-CHOOO!
MY NAME'S **JEREMIAH**.

I HAVE TO READ ALL ABOUT THESE ANCIENT ITEMS?! WHAT'S THERE TO SAY ABOUT AN OLD BOWL?
THAT IT HELD DOG CHOW FOR A PRIMITIVE POOCH!
THAAANKS, IRMA! THAT HELPS TONS!
WELL... HAVE FUN, HAY LIN!
HOPE IT'S OKAY IF WE DON'T HANG AROUND TO KEEP YOU COMPANY!
I GET THE IMPRESSION THAT FATE WANTS TO STOP ME FROM GIVING THAT CD TO ERIC.
SEE YOU IN A COUPLE OF HOURS OUTSIDE THE MOVIE THEATER, OKAY?
OKAY! THAT WAY I CAN STOP BY THE HOUSE AND CALL WILL.
AFTER WHAT HAPPENED IN KANDRAKAR, I'M WORRIED ABOUT HER. AND THE FACT THAT SHE DIDN'T COME HERE WITH US WORRIES ME EVEN MORE!
BUT SHE DOESN'T HAVE TO WORK AT THE MUSEUM!
AND THEN, SHE SAID SHE HAD SOMETHING TO DO!
YEAH.
BUT SHE DIDN'T WANT TO TELL ME WHAT IT WAS.

"I'D REALLY LIKE TO KNOW WHERE SHE WENT!"
COME OUTSIDE FOR A SECOND!
WHAT'S WRONG?
I SAID COME OUTSIDE!
HAS SOMETHING BAD HAPPENED? YOU LOOK SO UPSET!
AND YOU CAN'T IMAGINE THE REASON WHY, HUH?
I'D SAY I'VE DONE EVERYTHING I COULD TO WELCOME YOU TO OUR GROUP AND MAKE YOU FEEL AT HOME HERE IN HEATHERFIELD.
THAT'S TRUE. IN FACT, I'M VERY HAPPY HERE!
THEN REALIZE THAT AROUND HERE, BACKSTABBING YOUR FRIENDS IS A NASTY THING TO DO. BUT OBVIOUSLY THINGS MUST BE DONE DIFFERENTLY IN BASILIADE!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
DON'T PLAY DUMB!
IT'S SOMETHING THAT DRIVES ME CRAZY!

LISTEN... I DON'T HAVE TIME TO LISTEN TO YOUR RAMBLINGS. I'VE GOT A JOB TO DO.
YEAH! A JOB I FOUND FOR YOU!
I'VE ALREADY THANKED YOU FOR THAT!
YEAH, YOU THANKED ME WITH WORDS! BUT WITH ACTIONS, YOU STARTED GETTING ALL CUTESY...
...AND YOU STOLE MATT AWAY FROM ME!
YOU COULD AT LEAST HAVE TOLD ME YOU LIKED HIM, BUT INSTEAD, YOU WENT BEHIND MY BACK!
WE COULD'VE HAD A FAIR FIGHT! FIRST YOU PUT ON THIS NOBLE WARRIOR ACT, AND THEN YOU GO OFF BEING A COWARD!
LOOK, WILL, IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK.
MATT AND I ARE JUST GOOD FRIENDS, THAT'S ALL!
RIIIIGHT! SURE YOU ARE! SO YOU'RE A LIAR, TOO!

THAT'S ENOUGH!
YOU'VE CROSSED THE LINE! THINK WHATEVER YOU WANT!
YOU COULD APOLOGIZE, YOU KNOW. I WOULD'VE AT LEAST EXPECTED THAT!
YOU WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH? FINE! IN THE BEGINNING, I DIDN'T CARE FOR YOU ONE BIT.
THEN I GOT TO KNOW YOU, AND I LIKED YOU.
I SAW HOW YOU FOUGHT, AND SAW THAT YOU'RE A REAL LEADER. THE KIND WHO DOESN'T LEAVE ANYONE BEHIND.
BASICALLY, YOU'RE AN EXCEPTIONAL GUARDIAN, A TRUE WARRIOR.
IT'S JUST A SHAME YOU'RE SO CHILDISH!


YOU'VE GOT TO GROW UP, WILL!
THESE GUARDIANS ARE TOO IMMATURE!
IT'S JUST A SHAME YOU'RE SO CHILDISH!
BI BI BIBI BIP BIBI BIP
ANSWER THE PHONE, WILL! IT'S TARANEE!
OH, JUST GIVE HER A BUSY SIGNAL!
LATELY I'VE BEEN MESSING UP EVERYTHING I DO, SO I JUST WON'T DO ANYTHING OR SAY ANYTHING UNTIL I'VE FIGURED THINGS OUT.
BUT SHE'S HEARD THE RING AND KNOWS I'M FREE!
CLIC
AND I THINK SHE'S NICE, SO...

"5:30 PM. THE SIDERAL MOVIE THEATER."
WELL? WHY DON'T WE GO IN?
WE'RE STILL WAITING FOR SOMEONE. YOU DON'T MIND IF SOMEBODY ELSE TAGS ALONG, DO YOU?
AS LONG AS IT'S NOT SOMEONE WHO WHISPERS IN YOUR EAR THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE MOVIE!
HERE HE IS!
HI, CORNELIA!
IS HE THE ONE WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR?
WINK
HUGH, THESE ARE MY FRIENDS, TARANEE AND IRMA!
HI!
WHERE'VE YOU BEEN HIDING HIM?
IT'S A SECRET!
IRMA... THAT'S A NICE NAME!

WE HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER FOR AGES! I'M HAPPY YOU CALLED!
EVER SINCE OUR GROUP LOST TOUCH, I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM ANYONE! SO I THOUGHT I'D CHANGE THAT, STARTING WITH YOU!
GUYS... I DON'T FEEL GOOD. I THINK I'M GOING TO...
...FAINT!
TARANEE!
SIT DOWN FOR A SECOND!
CAN I DO ANYTHING? SHOULD I GET YOU A GLASS OF WATER?
IF YOU WANT, I CAN CALL MY MOM AND ASK HER TO PICK US UP!
NOOO!
!

I ALREADY FEEL A LITTLE BETTER. ANYWAY, I'D RATHER GO HOME. WOULD YOU COME WITH ME, CORNELIA?
OF COURSE I WILL, GIRL FRIEND!
WE'LL ALL GO WITH YOU!
NO, PLEASE... I'M ALREADY **EMBARRASSED!**
OH, REALLY?
YOU CONVINCE HER, HUGH! I'D REALLY PREFER IT IF YOU TWO COULD GO SEE THE MOVIE. I DON'T WANT TO RUIN EVERYONE'S DAY!
ALL RIGHT! IF NEEDED, I'D DRAG IRMA INTO THE THEATER BY HER HAIR!
I'LL KEEP MY CELL ON VIBRATE MODE SO IF YOU NEED HELP, CALL US!
GOOD THINKING, HUGH! THAT'S THE BEST SOLUTION!
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU GUYS UP TO?
WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS SO SUSPICIOUS?
GO ON, IRMA! ENJOY THE COMPANY!
HEE! HEE!
THE COOK-HALE DATING AGENCY IS OFF TO A GREAT START!

IS IT POSSIBLE TO SURVIVE AN ENTIRE, GRUELING AFTERNOON STUDYING PREHISTORIC ARTIFACTS?
I'LL GET HIM FOR YOU.
TH-THANKS, MR. LYNDON.
SBAM
I SHOULDN'T HAVE COME.
THAT WORK AT THE MUSEUM HAS TOTALLY WORN ME OUT! LOOK AT MY SWEATER... IT'S COVERED WITH DUST!
ALL SIGNS THAT DESTINY IS AGAINST ME! ERIC WON'T LIKE MY PRESENT! I'D BETTER COME UP WITH ANOTHER EXCUSE FOR BEING HERE!
HI, HAY LIN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
HUH? UH... ER... I...
HI, ERIC! I'M HERE TO... TO... TO...

AW, HECK! I CAME HERE TO UNLOAD THIS ON YOU!
UNLOAD?
YOU MIGHT NOT BE INTERESTED IN IT ANYMORE, SO IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT YOU CAN JUST THROW IT AWAY, OR THROW IT AT MY HEAD OR WHATEVER...
I DON'T MEAN TO BE PUSHY OR ANYTHING, BUT WHEN I SAW IT...
"SMELLING A RAT" BY BLACK SHADOW?
IT'S PRACTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND!
IT'S A COLLECTOR'S ITEM! IT'S FANTASTIC! YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW LONG I'VE BEEN WANTING THIS!
THEN YOU LIKE IT?
I...

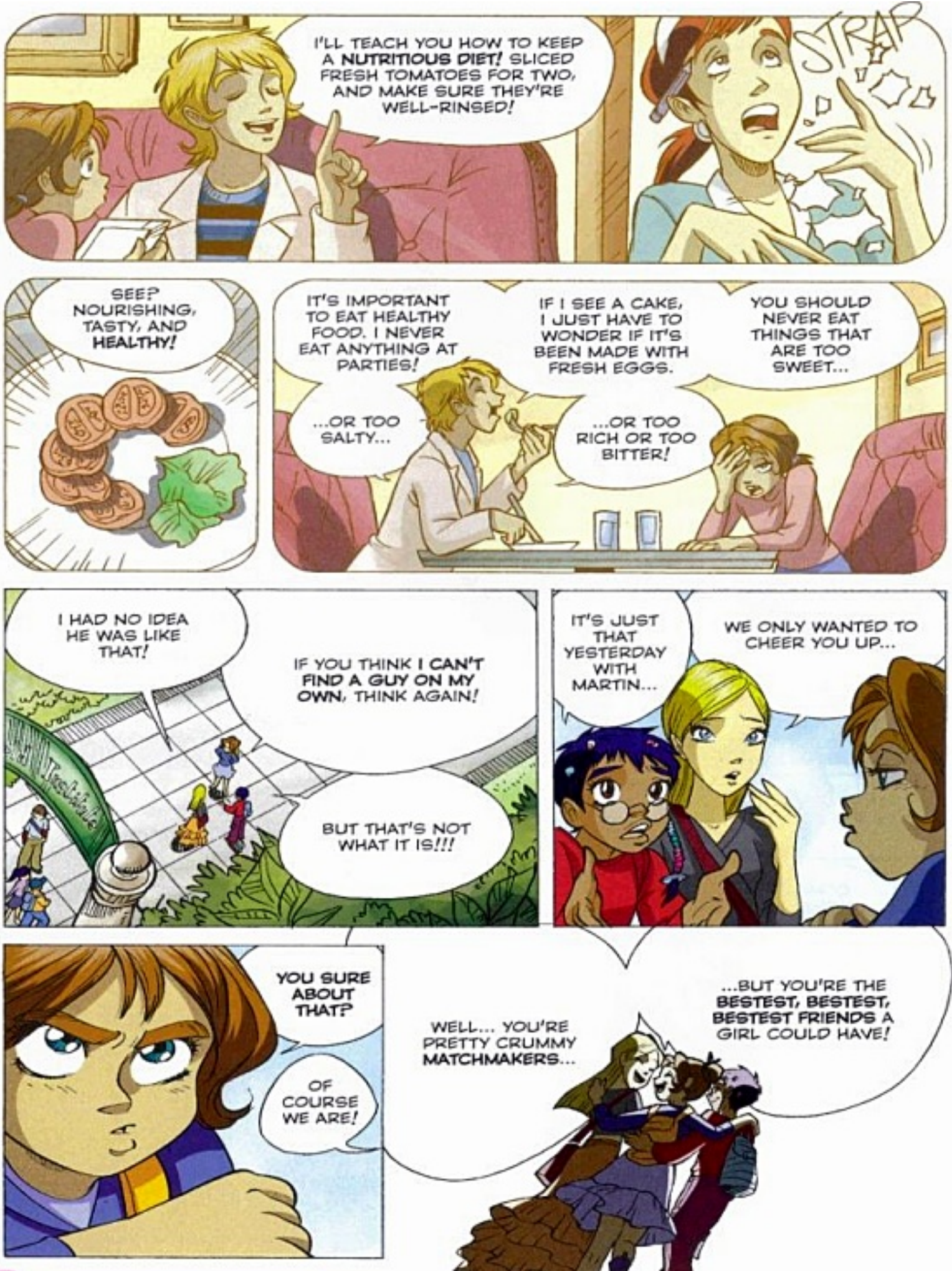
SBAM

I KISSED HER THEN SLAMMED THE DOOR IN HER FACE...?
I AM SUCH AN IDIOT!

MY FIRST KISS...

YAP!

SHEFFIELD INSTITUTE. THE NEXT MORNING.
Sheffield Institute
YOU GUYS ARE LUCKY I'M STILL TALKING TO YOU AFTER LAST NIGHT.
DIDN'T YOU HAVE FUN?
"OH, SURE! HOW COULD ANYONE GET BORED WITH MR. HUMOR?"
HA! HA!
HA!
HE! HE! HE!
HA!
HA! HA! HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
?!?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHAT IS IT THAT'S SO AMUSING?
"BUT THEN IT GOT EVEN WORSE!"
PIZZA, FRIES, A SUPER-MEGA-MAXI ORANGE SODA AND CHOCOLATE ICE CREAM WITH HOT FUDGE TOPPING.
COMING RIGHT UP!
YOU REALLY WANT TO EAT ALL OF THAT?
WELL... SINCE I JUST ORDERED IT...
YOU NEED TO EAT PROPERLY!


I'LL TEACH YOU HOW TO KEEP A **NUTRITIOUS DIET!** SLICED FRESH TOMATOES FOR TWO, AND MAKE SURE THEY'RE WELL-RINSED!
STRAP
SEE? NOURISHING, TASTY, AND **HEALTHY!**
IT'S IMPORTANT TO EAT HEALTHY FOOD. I NEVER EAT ANYTHING AT PARTIES!
...OR TOO SALTY...
IF I SEE A CAKE, I JUST HAVE TO WONDER IF IT'S BEEN MADE WITH FRESH EGGS.
...OR TOO RICH OR TOO BITTER!
YOU SHOULD NEVER EAT THINGS THAT ARE TOO SWEET...
I HAD NO IDEA HE WAS LIKE THAT!
IF YOU THINK **I CAN'T FIND A GUY ON MY OWN**, THINK AGAIN!
BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT IT IS!!!
IT'S JUST THAT YESTERDAY WITH MARTIN...
WE ONLY WANTED TO CHEER YOU UP...
YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?
OF COURSE WE ARE!
WELL... YOU'RE PRETTY CRUMMY **MATCHMAKERS**...
...BUT YOU'RE THE **BESTEST, BESTEST, BESTEST FRIENDS** A GIRL COULD HAVE!

KANDRAKAR.
MAY THE CELESTIAL SEARCH BEGIN!
I WANT THE NEW GUARDIANS TO BE STRONGER AND MORE POWERFUL. THREE OF THEM WILL DO.
AND THEY SHOULD HAVE PLEASING APPEARANCES... NOT LIKE THOSE FIVE LITTLE BRATS!
AS YOU WISH.
SOME ADVICE FOR YOU, YAN LIN.
DON'T YOU DARE GET IN MY WAY!
End of Episode.